

Apalachicola/Chattahoochee/Flint Focus Area - USGS WaterSMART

ACF Stakeholder Meeting

Eastpoint, Florida

January 11, 2012



Focused Water Availability Assessments

- Three studies focused on selected watersheds: the Colorado, Delaware, and Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, Flint Rivers—where there is significant competition over water resources. Here, the USGS will work collaboratively with stakeholders to comprehensively assess the technical aspects of water availability.



The ACF Basin

All the elements for a water conflict

- Highly complex natural and human-altered system
- Three states relying on watershed
- Many water users potentially in competition
- Diversity of interests
- Economies dependent on water supplies



ACF WaterSMART Focus Area

Three teams are developing goals and activities for:

- Water Use Assessment - John Clarke
- Integrated Surface and Groundwater Models
- Hal Davis and Jacob LaFontaine
- Ecological Flow Assessment - Mary Freeman



Progress on ACF WaterSMART

- USGS planning meeting on June 22–23, 2011
- Formed working groups for 3 areas of technical concern
 - Water Use
 - Ground Water/Surface Water Interactions
 - Ecological Assessment of Instream Flows
- Drought conditions hydrologic, water quality, and ecological sampling during July and August
- National meeting week of December 5-9, 2011
- Stakeholder meeting - January 11, 2012

ACF WaterSMART Details

- Timescale—3 years, 2012-2014
- Requested Funding
 - \$500K/year for water component
 - \$200K/year for ecological component
- Products
 - USGS reports, journal articles documenting results
 - Models/Tools
 - Interim products

USGS role in ACF

- Objective approach to a complex problem
- Scientific expertise and experience working on groundwater, surface water, and ecological problems
- National and regional scope of project
- Mandated to provide technical support for water conflicts

Expectations for today

- Provide information on plans for ACF Focus Area Study
- Obtain input on the kinds of information and ways of presenting/providing results that will be most useful to stakeholders.